

# ESL Webliography of Essential Resource

## 2008 revision

This webliography is compiled by Information Resources Center in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo by Jun 2008. Some links may expire by now. We can't be responsible for all the validity of all the links listed below. If you need our assistance, please contact us by [Shanghaiirc@state.gov](mailto:Shanghaiirc@state.gov)

### General Search Engines:

in the search window provided in these new search engines, type the word ESL

- **Librarians Index to the Internet:** <http://www.lii.org>
- **INFOMINE:** <http://infomine.ucr.edu>

LOOK AT INFOMINE, go to the **SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES SECTION from the main home page**, then click on Subjects at the very bottom of the page, then go to the E section and then look at the subject heading ENGLISH LANGUAGE -- ACCENTS AND ACCENTUATION (1) until you find the following Internet site

- **Research Development Network (RDN):** <http://www.rdn.ac.uk/>
- **Virtual Training Suite of the Research Development Network (RDN):** <http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk>
- **ESOL Virtual Training Suite (RDN):** <http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/fe/tutorial/esol>

### Excellent Internet Sites Useful for Teachers and Students

- **Using English:** <http://www.UsingEnglish.com>  
Provides grammar glossaries, reference sheets on irregular verbs, phrasal verbs and idioms, teacher handouts, and ESL forums. The forums are particularly useful, as registered users can post questions in the "Ask a Teacher!" feature, and receive a response from one of their team of expert advisors. The articles area contains short pieces on using punctuation properly, teaching English in South Asia, and formal letter writing. The site also has its own Weblog, which contains valuable information on various elements of the English language that may be helpful both for ESL teachers and those seeking to learn the language.
- **ESL Gold [Real Player, pdf]** <http://www.eslgold.com/>  
The site's primary materials are thematically organized into categories such as "Speaking", "Listening", "Reading", and "Writing". Within each of these sections, visitors can take a look through topical resources that compartmentalize different

more digestible themes, such as “Topics for Writing” or “Organizing and Composing”. As might be expected, visitors can also find materials for beginning, intermediate, or advanced level students.

- **Larry Ferlazzo’s Website of the Day** for teaching ELL, ESL, EFL:  
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/>
- **Online English Language Program from the University of Oregon:**  
<http://oelp.uoregon.edu/>
- **English Language Programs:** <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/>  
Includes Lesson Plans and Activities
- **ESL Cyber Listening Lab [Windows Media Player, Real Player]**  
<http://www.esl-lab.com/> Developed by an educator with a series of experiences spent educating persons in the art of learning English, this website provides a multimedia experience for those seeking to learn the language. The focus on the site is most definitely on developing users’ listening skills, and it provides dozens of helpful audio features that quizzes students on topics such as renting an apartment, understanding credit cards, and making doctor’s appointments. Along with these more practical skills, another section of quizzes deals with subjects that students might encounter in other situations, such as the TOEFL or more advanced conversations. The multimedia experience of the site is greatly enhanced through video presentations of long conversations on topics such as family history, investing, and solar eclipses.
- **The Reading Matrix:** <http://www.readingmatrix.com/>  
in the fall of 2000, a group of concerned educators came together to form The Reading Matrix, which was designed to create a place where both teachers and other interested persons could come together to find resources about reading and writing. Most of the resources are geared towards the language needs of ESL and international students, but given the cornucopia of materials here, there is really something for everyone. Scrolling down from the site’s homepage, visitors will come across areas that include a job database, the Reading Matrix Archives, interactive reading exercises, and a list of germane online journals. The Archives are a good place to start, as users will have the opportunity to look through subject-oriented resources for English-language learners that range from dictionaries, grammar quizzes, and speaking and listening practice.
- **Speech Accent Archive** <http://accent.gmu.edu>  
The Speech Accent Archive has collected 300 plus audio speech samples from people, native and non-native speakers of English, around the world -- reading the same English paragraph. The archive "allows users to compare the demographic and linguistic backgrounds of the speakers in order to determine which variables are key predictors of each accent." A person's accent is commonly (improperly or prejudicially) assigned a certain social standing, demographic, and income level.

The goal of this project is to show the continuity of accent across geographical language groups. The native language phonetic inventories section gives a chart of the phonetic qualities of each language, so that two or more languages can be compared.

## Online Resources to Improve Writing Skill

- **The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing:** <http://www.nutsandboltsguide.com>
- **English Composition: Writing for an Audience:**  
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series128.html>  
It introduces basic principles for communicating in writing to a variety of audiences. Throughout the series, students meet an array of professionals whose work involves writing, including writers working in television--but also nurses, engineers, athletes, and others for whom the importance of writing may not be as obvious.
- **Online Writing Assistant:** <http://www.powa.org/>
- **ESL Independent Study Lab:**  
<http://www.lclark.edu/~krauss/toppicks/toppicks.html>
- **How to Write Effective Argumentative Essays:**  
<http://www.powa.org/argument/index.html>
- **University of Wisconsin, Madison Writing Center:**  
<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/>
- **Dartmouth College Writing Center:**  
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/about.shtml>
- **Bibliography of Effective Writing Resources:**  
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/au/bibs/ewr/ewr.htm>
- **Free Writing Courses Online:**  
[http://education-portal.com/articles/10\\_Universities\\_Offering\\_Free\\_Writing\\_Courses\\_Online.html](http://education-portal.com/articles/10_Universities_Offering_Free_Writing_Courses_Online.html)  
Links to self-study modules offered by 10 universities to teach various kinds of writing: technical, news, essays, fiction, academic prose, and more.

## Online Resources of Grammar Guides:

- **Internet Grammar of English:** <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar>
- **Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation:** <http://www.grammarbook.com>

- **Guide to Grammar and Writing:** <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar>
- **Grammar Girls Guide to Better Writing and Understanding the Finer Points of Grammar:** <http://grammar.qdnow.com>
- **Grammar Guides:** <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>
- **University of Minnesota, Online Grammar Handbook:** <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~jewel001/grammar/>
- **Self-Study Grammar Quizzes:** <http://a4esl.org/q/h/grammar.html>

## **Teacher Resources: Lesson Plans**

- **USA Today for Educators and English Language Learners**  
<http://www.usatoday.com/educate/>  
Provides glossaries, vocabularies and lesson plans from current articles in USA TODAY
- **Breaking News in English ESL Podcasts for Easier Learning**  
(available in MP 3 files) <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/podcast.html>  
See also the main website at: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/> for additional examples of Lesson Plans and ideas for ESL Teachers.
- **Lesson Plans:**  
[http://www.marcopolo-education.org/teacher/shell.aspx?filename=/teacher/lesson\\_plan\\_content\\_index.aspx&site\\_area=teacher](http://www.marcopolo-education.org/teacher/shell.aspx?filename=/teacher/lesson_plan_content_index.aspx&site_area=teacher)
- **Working with Young English Language Learners**  
<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0301coltrane.html>
- **Spoken Alexandria Project –Free Audio from Telltale Weekly**  
<http://www.spokenalex.org/> Creative Commons audio books. "The Spoken Alexandria Project is creating a free library of spoken word recordings, consisting of classics in the public domain and modern works (with permission). AAC, Ogg Vorbis, and MP3 audio books available for free download and redistribution."
- **The Challenge of Teaching Children:**  
<http://www.etprofessional.com/articles/challenge.pdf>
- **Teaching and Learning with Internet Based Resources**  
<http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/fellowship/reports/susanc/inthome.htm>

- **Thousands of other lesson plans at Curriki**  
<http://curriki.org> (Must register first to see course content, but registration is absolutely free)  
 One example of Teaching ESL from Athabasca University with Complete Lesson Plans  
<http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/xwiki/view/MyCurriki/Collections?user=Athabasca>
- **Edsitement from the National Endowment for the Humanities:**  
<http://edsitement.neh.gov>

## Distance Education Resources

- **MIT Distance Education:** <http://ocw.mit.edu>  
 MIT's Course on Consume Culture with essay and homework assignments that were expressly created to develop expository writing skills:  
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Writing-and-Humanistic-Studies/21W-730-3Consumer-CultureFall2002/CourseHome/index.htm>
- **MIT's Expository Writing Class with samples of Student Work and downloadable assignments:** <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Writing-and-Humanistic-Studies/21W-730-3Spring2001/CourseHome/index.htm>

## Resources for Children

- **International Digital Children's Library:**  
<http://www.icdlbooks.org/>  
 Full text of classic children's books in over twenty languages and growing every day.
- **Online stories for children:**  
<http://www.storylineonline.net/>  
 Students can listen to the stories at the same time that they read the text. I also like the following website:
- **Read Aloud Stories for Kids:**  
[http://www.rif.org/assets/Documents/readingplanet/ReadAloud\\_Stories/safari\\_song.html](http://www.rif.org/assets/Documents/readingplanet/ReadAloud_Stories/safari_song.html)
- **Kids Sites and Educational Resources**  
<http://ejw.i8.com/kids.html>

## Free Educational and Documentary Videos for Learning English: Connect with English Series from the Annenberg Foundation

The Annenberg Foundation at <http://www.learner.org> has **free educational and documentary videos in all subject areas**. One video series in particular, *Connect*

*with English*, follows the adventures of Rebecca as she travels across the U.S. The series is available at this URL: <http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html>

Access to this video series is free, but one does need to register first. Registration is absolutely free and takes just minutes.

This description of *Connect with English* is from the overview”:

“Through the story of Rebecca, an aspiring singer on a journey across America, ***Connect with English*** touches on life's important issues: leaving home, parenting, education, work, love, success, and loss. All of the characters use meaningful, natural language that students can put to work immediately in their own lives. Each episode features dialogue that is slightly slowed down and subtly simplified. Key lines are repeated, idioms paraphrased, and important events retold. There are constant visual clues to meaning, such as written signs, notes, and documents. Facial expressions, gestures, and body language also reveal meaning for students. Closed captioning can be used as a teaching and literacy resource. For levels from high beginning through low and high intermediate.”

**Lists of ESL Books Available at Amazon.com at:**

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&type=wishlist&id=2DUNP27M69AQY>

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**English for Special Purposes Books Available at Amazon.com at:**

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/32GAR2DG0AXN4/ref=cm\\_wl\\_rlist\\_go](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/32GAR2DG0AXN4/ref=cm_wl_rlist_go)

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